



# Enterprise Green Communities Resource Guide



# About Green Communities

Launched in 2004, Enterprise Green Communities supports developers, investors, builders and policymakers to create a greener future for affordable housing.

Since the program's inception, Enterprise Green Communities has supported more than 550 housing organizations across the country to create and rehabilitate more than 35,000 green affordable homes.

Enterprise Green Communities homes are built and rehabilitated according to the Enterprise Green Communities Criteria, the first national framework for healthy, efficient, environmentally sustainable affordable homes.



# About Enterprise

We are a national nonprofit with more than 30 years of experience in community development and affordable housing.

At Enterprise, we create opportunity for low- and moderate-income people through affordable housing in diverse, thriving communities.

## Resources

All resources in this guide can be found on the Enterprise Green Communities website at:

**[EnterpriseCommunity.com/GreenResources](http://EnterpriseCommunity.com/GreenResources)**



**MOHAWK** windpower 

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# Enterprise Green Communities Resource Guide

## Green Communities Criteria

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The Enterprise Green Communities Criteria is the first national framework for green affordable housing. The Criteria provide developers of all types of affordable projects with a proven, cost-effective roadmap and reference standard for creating healthy, efficient and environmentally responsible homes.

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### Green Communities Certification Pathway

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Certification provides a valuable quality assurance mechanism for state and local housing finance agencies, helping them make smart decisions and verify that the affordable housing developments they support meet the highest standards for efficiency, environmental sustainability and health. Certification also gives housing developers a clear process for demonstrating their commitment to green affordable housing by meeting the Criteria.

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### Project Management Guide

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This guide aligns and reorganizes the Green Communities Criteria categories within the development process. It also states what aspects of the Criteria should be considered during a particular development phase.

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## Integrative Design Process

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### Pre-Development Design Toolkit

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Our tools and case studies explain why developers should initiate a more thorough pre-design development process, from drafting a design brief, through architect selection, culminating in a green charrette. Investment in the pre-development phase will help align your project goals for better resident health and livability, building performance and sustainability.

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### Green Charrette Toolkit

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These tools provide charrette facilitators with the materials and instruction needed to guide an integrative design charrette. The end goal: successful creation of a green development plan.



## Green Resident Engagement

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### Resident Engagement Strategies

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This resource provides best practices in getting residents engaged, including helping them understand and implement conservation and healthy living practices.

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### Green Resident Leader Toolkit

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Green Leaders inform their neighbors through a series of educational workshops and events – the “Green & Healthy Living” program – that addresses: energy and water conservation, recycling and healthy living. Our toolkit provides easy step-by-step instructions for a series of fun workshops and events on green living and the proper care and maintenance of homes.

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### Resident Education Cards

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Property managers and resident service coordinators can customize these cards to provide tips to residents on green and healthy living practices.

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### Training in a Box – Resident Engagement

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Our educational modules – with slides, exercises and videos – provide trainers with the resources they need to empower residents with the principles and practices of healthy living.

## Technical Resources

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### Multifamily Retrofit Toolkit

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This online toolkit provides a valuable process for multifamily affordable housing owners, investors and developers, outlining a comprehensive, cost-effective approach to retrofits. Our resource guides users through the stages of upgrading a portfolio or property.

### Fresh, Local Foods Access Toolkit – New York

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Designed for New York developers, this toolkit provides step-by-step instructions and resources to implement a fresh food access model that meets the Enterprise Green Communities Access to Fresh, Local Food Criteria. It best addresses the needs of your development and leverages the assets of your organization and neighborhood.

### Operations & Maintenance

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Our customizable *Training in a Box* helps you teach various building operations and maintenance staff how to integrate green and healthy practices into O&M processes.

### Green Rehabilitation Specifications

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These model specifications are used to integrate green building strategies in multifamily and single-family rehabilitation projects. The specs are designed to meet the Enterprise Green Communities Criteria.

### Universal Design Specifications

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Our model specification helps single-family and multifamily housing developers and designers incorporate Universal Design (UD) principles into their developments to ensure safety, accessibility and comfort of all residents.

### Technical Assistance Database

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Our Technical Assistance Providers Database is a national listing of qualified experts in topics related to the design, development and construction of energy efficient, environmentally friendly and safe affordable housing.

### Online Event Archive

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Watch our recorded Green Communities Live Online Events – these webinars highlight diverse topics in green affordable housing.

## Reports and Case Studies

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### Incremental Cost, Measurable Savings Update

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This 2012 update to our Incremental Cost, Measurable Savings report illustrates the cost effectiveness of the Green Communities Criteria in delivering health, economic and environmental benefits to developers and residents of green affordable housing.

### The Success of Charrettes

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Our report highlights the role of a charrette in establishing a green development plan to foster an integrative design process throughout a project's life cycle.

### Utility Allowance Options for Investments in Energy Efficiency: Resource Guide

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Learn more about adopting, establishing and offering utility allowance options supportive of energy-efficiency investments in new construction and rehabilitation.

### Green Communities Offset Fund: Lessons Learned

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Our report outlines five key lessons learned through the creation and pilot of the Offset Fund while addressing funding issues, accountability, balancing costs and revenues, and ownership rights.

### Green Affordable Housing Policy Toolkit

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Our toolkit offers a roadmap for state and local governments working on green affordable housing initiatives.

### Case Studies

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These studies highlight innovative green projects and demonstrate that green, affordable housing development is happening nationwide – with incredible results.

### Health Studies

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Studies have shown that affordable housing built or rehabilitated to meet green standards brings important health benefits to low-income adults and children. These studies help illustrate the critical link between housing and improved health.